



The Canal Zone Philatelist



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Vice-President's Report

By Howard Ballou

Bidders needed for upcoming Mail Sale!

To start off with I would like to thank all for the opportunity to serve as Vice President for the next 2 years. At this point I stand humbled by the footsteps I follow. Thank you Jim Crumpacker and Richard Salz, from all of us, for your many, many years of service to the Canal Zone Study Group! The pressure is off so perhaps you'll have more time to enjoy the hobby. On a more personal note I would like to thank both Jim and Dick for their suggestions, observations and guidance, regarding my studies of the Fourth Series. These have proven truthfully invaluable in getting the study to the point it is right now. For those of you out there who think that there is nothing new to know or investigate about Canal Zone Philately, YOU ARE WRONG! Case in point, The Fourth Series! Printed in 1906, an 'illegal' issue, yet no one had taken the time to understand the how, when, and why of this printing. It wasn't until 2002, 96 years after being issued, that all the 'Gaps in the Bars' were analyzed and reported to assist with the plating of this issue. The results of this portion of the study run over into the Panama and Colombia issues by assisting in the plating of these also. What I'm saying is there is still plenty of room in Canal Zone Philately to Investigate, Specialize in, and Collect to your hearts content. And in a worst case scenario: AT LEAST help those who are doing ongoing research and investigations by

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Gilbert N. Plass. 1920-2004

Dr. Gilbert N. Plass, one of the most important members in the history of the Canal Zone Study Group, died on March 1, 2004, at age 83. Gil was born in Toronto, Canada on March 22, 1920. He earned his B.S. summa cum laude in physics from Harvard University in 1941, was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and earned his Ph.D. in physics from Princeton University in 1947. During 1942-1945, he was Associate Physicist, metallurgical laboratory University of Chicago, where he worked on the Manhattan Project to help build the first atomic reactor (which led to the development of the atom bomb) as a civilian with the Atomic Energy Commission Office of Scientific Research and Development. Gil taught physics at Johns Hopkins University 1946-1955, first as Instructor and eventually as Associate Professor. He was employed as a staff scientist at Lockheed Aircraft Corp. 1955-1956, and then by Ford Motor Co. at Newport Beach, CA. 1956-



1963, first in advanced research 1956-1960 and then as Manager of the theoretical physics department research laboratory 1960-1963. During 1963-1968, Gil was Professor of Atmospheric and Space Science, Southwest Center for Advanced Studies, Dallas, Texas. Dr. Plass was Professor of Physics at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 1968-1985, being Head of that Physics Department 1968-1977. He retired in January 1986, having reached a mandatory retirement age of 65. Gil was

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2004 CZSG Mail Sale

Consignments for the **CZSG Mail Sale** should be sent to arrive by June 28, 2004. The Catalog will be mailed by August 12th. There is something in the sale for everyone. If there are any questions regarding the sale, contact:

Tom Brougham,
P.O. Box 1284
Berkeley, CA 94701

CZSG Meeting Notice

APS STAMPSHOW, Sacramento
Convention Ctr., 1400 J St., Sacramento, CA, Sat., Aug. 14, 3:30 p.m.

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Display advertising accepted from CZSG members only at the following rates per insertion:

One column, two inches	\$10.00
One column, five inches	20.00
Two columns, five inches	35.00

No larger advertisements are accepted. Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Copy should be sent to the Editor.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write, phone, or FAX the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

CZSG at PHILATELIC SHOW 2004

The Northeastern CZSG regional meeting was held on 1 May 2004 in Boxborough MA. We were pleased to have David Zemer, our President, in attendance. Other members included David Smith, Bill Fall, Richard Potter, George McHugh and Alan Bentz.

Zemer arranged for Eliot Landau, President of USRMSG (U.S. Registered Mail Study Group), to give a presentation on the new group after showing some exciting examples of registry transfer items. [See May '04 Feature of the Month on CZSG.org, or a follow up article in *CZP* in the

future describing a Panamanian Registration envelope].

David Zemer followed with a talk, "Files from the ABNCo archives for Panama 218 and 219 (Canal Zone 58 and 59)."

Bill Fall gave one of his outstanding Power Point presentations. His subject was *Excavation of the Lower Locks at Gatun*. His extensive research gave a truly profound sense of the engineering problems that the builders faced.

Bill also provided a complimentary philatelic cover to each attendee. They were canceled at the show. They commemorated the centennial of the

beginning of the U.S. construction project with the formal transfer of the rights and properties of the French Canal Company to the United States. On 4 May 1904, second lieutenant Mark Brooks signed the receipt for the property. [See our web site: CZSG.org, Feature of the Month for June].

Alan Bentz discussed Souvenir folders that David Leeds had sold as a youth to tourists. Samples, provided by David, were given attendees. Each member brought a wide variety of fascinating CZ material enjoyed during a "show n' tell" time.

Alan Bentz

Auctions

by Jim Crumpacker

Several major auction houses had important offerings of Canal Zone philately in the first quarter, Jan. 1-Mar. 31, 2004, with a number of all-time high realizations set. The mundane items sold reasonably well but it was the "10 knowns" and quirky things that brought the big bucks.

The first dollar amount shown is hammer plus commission; this price is immediately followed by the catalog price, in parenthesis, from the 2004 *Scott's Specialized Catalogue*.

1, OG, HR, F-VF \$413 (\$550) Harbour
1d, PANAMA reading down and up, used on piece, VF+ w/ nat. se, pos. 100 \$319 (\$650) Ivy & Mader

2a, CANAL ZONE inverted, F pair on sl. reduced local cover, Ancon 7/9/04 to Colon \$1925 (\$n/a) R. A. Siegel

2b, CANAL ZONE double, OG, H, F \$2640 (\$2250) R. A. Siegel

2 var., Colon betw. right bar and PANAMA, OG, H, barely F \$440 (\$525) Harbour

3, OG, H, XF \$385 (\$350) R. A. Siegel
3a, CANAL ZONE inverted, OG, H, F \$358 (\$725) Harbour

9c, inverted overprint, used, small tear o/w VF \$3300 (\$2250) R. A. Siegel

9d, double overprint, mostly OG, H, F-VF, small indentations on gum \$2860 (\$2000) R. A. Siegel

10a, CANAL ZONE inverted, OG, NH, VF+ \$187 (\$225) Harbour

12e, PANAMA inverted, bar at bottom, used, F-VF \$1430 (\$1250) R. A. Siegel

14b, overprint inverted, OG, H, F-VF \$330 (\$425) Ivy & Mader

14f, "8 cts." double, no gum, VF+ \$935 (\$850) R. A. Siegel

15, OG, H, VF+ \$2420 (\$2600) R. A. Siegel

15 var., one PANAMA only, TG, H, F-VF w/ margin, CZSG 15.6 \$2970 (\$2600) Ivy & Mader

20c, "8 cts." omitted, TG, H, F-VF \$495 (\$750) Ivy & Mader

22a, horiz. pair, imperf. betw., OG, H, VF \$1265 (\$1300) Ivy & Mader

22b, vertical pair, imperf. betw., OG, H, F-VF \$1485 (\$1750) Ivy & Mader

22g, inverted center and inverted

overprint, TG, H, XF \$3190 (\$3500) R. A. Siegel

22g, inverted center and inverted overprint, OG (minor dist. from interl.), H, XF w/ part imprint \$4950 (\$3500) Ivy & Mader

23b, vertical pair, one w/o overprint, TG, HR as reinf, VF \$2310 (\$1750) R. A. Siegel

25a, horiz. pair imperf. betw. and at left margin, on piece from PARAISO, XF \$3850 (\$not priced) unique (?) used copy R. A. Siegel

26b, inverted overprint, reading up, OG, HR's, tiny thins o/w almost VF w/ ZONE on left margin (needs expertization) \$3575 (\$4000) Ivy & Mader

31c, booklet pane of 6, OG, NH, F-VF \$523 (\$575) Ivy & Mader

46, OG, NH, VF 1st pr., \$132 (\$160) Harbour

46a, inverted overprint, OG, H, F-VF \$358 (\$375) R. A. Siegel

47, OG, H, F-VF \$2530 (\$3250) Ivy & Mader

47, OG, H, F \$1980 (\$3250) Ivy & Mader

55f, CANAL double, OG, HR, VF, ZONE on right margin \$2310 (\$1400) R. A. Siegel

56a, double overprint, OG, H, F \$743 (\$600) R. A. Siegel

57, OG/TG, H, F-VF, CZSG 57.6 w/ most of CANAL on right selvage, \$935 (\$n/a) R. A. Siegel

60a, CANAL double, OG, H, XF in pair w/ normal \$2860 (\$2504) Ivy & Mader

60b, booklet pane of 6, OG (sl. glazed from interl.) NH, VF-XF \$605 (\$1000) Ivy & Mader

60b, booklet pane of 6, TG, H, few seps. o/w F-VF \$523 (\$1000) Harbour

61f, booklet pane of 6, OG (few tiny skips), NH, VF-XF \$2860 (\$2100) R. A. Siegel

67, OG, H, VF \$440 (\$500) Ivy & Mader

100a, vertical pair, one w/o overprint, OG, H, VF+ \$5500 (\$4000) Ivy & Mader

J3, OG, H, almost VF, nice margins \$1155 (\$850) R. A. Siegel

J3, OG, H, VF \$990 (\$850) Ivy & Mader
J17b, "E" of POSTAGE omitted, large

part OG, H, XF in pair w/ normal \$1045 (\$550) R. A. Siegel

J20c, double overprint, OG, H, F+ \$308 (\$450) Harbour

CO14a, inverted overprint, OG, NH, VF, O of OFFICIAL broken at side, small backstamp \$4125 (\$2500) R. A. Siegel

U1b, frame only, unused entire, few faint toning spots o/w VF \$1430 (\$1500) R. A. Siegel

U14, mint entire, VF \$385 (\$450) Harbour

U15 (38), entire used 6/18/34 to US, minor soil o/w VF \$413 (Sc. \$150, UPSS \$500) Harbour

UX5, entire used Crist. 7/13/22 to US, VF \$264 (\$450) Harbour

The names and addresses of the firms mentioned in this report are stated below.

Harbour Auctions

1954 Greenspring Drive, LL 18
Baltimore, MD 21093

Ivy & Mader

775 Passaic Ave.
West Caldwell, NJ 07006

R. A. Siegel

60 East 56th St.
New York, NY 10022

Request for Information

Jim Kotanchik is working on a book titled "Official Seals of the United States and Possessions". One chapter will be on the Canal Zone. This chapter stands on its own and could be a CZSG monograph. To make this as definitive as possible, the following help is requested:

- ♦ any information on the quantities printed for Scott Nos. OX3 and OX4 which were produced in the Zone.
- ♦ an inventory/census of covers and panes for Scott OX1-4 would be highly desirable. On watermarked seals, please note the watermark and its orientation.
- ♦ great or unusual material for inclusion as illustrations in the book/ chapter.

If you have any of these, please let Jim know and mail a Xerox to 48 Nashoba Road, Acton, MA 01720-2330 or e-mail a scan to jimko@speakeasy.net. If you prefer, material can be sent directly to the Editor for anonymous forwarding.

G. B. Weiss

CZ 16a-1mm, re-visited by Howard Ballou

Twenty-five years after the first copy of CZ 16a-1mm, was first described in the CZP 48 (1978), there have been some additional discoveries that need to be mentioned. In addition, personal research on the printing sequencing of the Canal Zone Fourth Series has added light to where the 16a-1mm fits in. Even though we will never know exactly how many were printed or what really happened during the printing that led to this error, some very reasonable guesses can be made that will bring us closer to the truth.

The apparent 'facts' as of this writing:

1). Only 15 unused copies are known at this time. All appear to have come from the same block of 15 with positions: 51-55, 61- 65 & 71-75. At present, they are in strips, pairs, blocks and singles.

2). Five used copies from known positions and possibly another used copy from an unknown position also exist. These are:

- Position 80 (first 16a-1mm to be mentioned - CZP 48).
- Position 83 (second one to be mentioned - CZP 58).
- Position 83 (third one to be mentioned - CZP 61)
- Position 55 (unpublished, personal collection).
- Position 86 (Spaced Z-O of Zone, auctioned on Ebay recently).
- Position unknown.

Notes on Identification of Positions:

- Personal identification from scans described by Plass in CZP 58. Could be pos. 80 or 100 as the accents are 000-000 and they are from the 10th column BUT all 1st printings and 2nd printings of the 1 ct. (16 & 16a) appear to only exist on TOP panes with a straight edge on the bottom row of the pane. Therefore, with perfs along the bottom edge of the stamp, it has to be position 80.
- b. & c. These were identified in the CZP 58, 61 by Plass, both with accents A0A-000.
- d. Personal collection. This Gap in the bottom bar is unique to positions 5/55 on both the Second and Third printings.
- e. Identified from scan when offered on Ebay recently. Positive I.D. is from a unique shift in the 'ONE' of ZONE (¼ mm to the right) on Position 36 & 86 (Space Z O variety). This shift to the right, of 'ONE', occurs only on these positions so the Spaced 'Z O' even if not clear and blurred by the cancel, can be positively identified.
- f. I have not seen this used copy except in poor scans and it may be one of the position 83s previously described.

3). I have only mentioned positions from the lower half of the pane, positions 51 - 100. Recent research relating to the sequencing of 16a, 17a, 16b, & 17b has lead me to conclude that 16a-1mm can only be from the bottom half of the pane. **There is breaking news.** Between the time of writing and printing of this article, a single copy of 16a, position 100 with the arrow on the lower right corner, has surfaced. BUT it is **perfed** along the lower edge which according to conventional wisdom is IMPOSSIBLE! I will leave for the time being my conclusion that all 16a's bottom rows (91-100) are straight edge at this point and further updates will be forthcoming!

4). I believe that at least 2 bottom halves of panes were printed. Given the limited number of examples known to exist and the coincidence that two of the known positions (pos. 83 & 55) have duplicates, it would be reasonable to assume that at least two bottom halves were printed. It is quite possibly as few as **100 copies** of 16a-1mm were printed in total with very few surviving, as they were not identified at the time and apparently many were postally used.

The duplicate positions are:

Position 83 (A0A-000); second and third samples as noted in the CZP 58, 61. Both are used copies
Position 55; one is found in an unused strip of 3 (positions 53, 54, 55) which was shown in the CZSG Exhibit at Pacific '97 in San Francisco. The other copy is in my collection and is used. The Ballou copy was the first GAP IN THE BARS copy that I found. The research on the Gaps was published in CZP 143. Figure 1 is a close-up of this very distinctive gap in the bottom bar, unique to positions 5 and 55 of the Second and Third printings of the Fourth Series (16a, 17a, 16b, 17b).
 5). All known used copies, with recognizable cancels, were canceled at the Cristobal Post Office. 1st discovered copy from pos. 80. cancel Cristobal Sept.?, second copy from pos. 55 used - Cristobal Aug. 10, 1906.
 6). 16a-1mm followed the printing of 17a. Figure 2 depicts the relationship between the three printings in question. The top obliterating bars have been kept even on the top for ease in

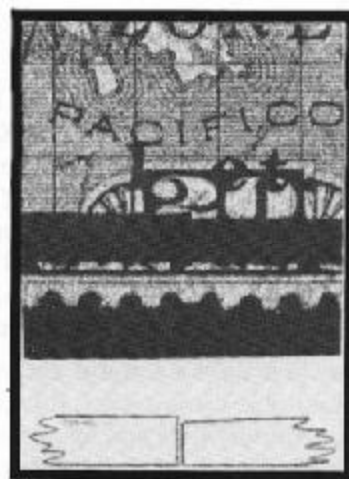


Fig. 1. CZ 16a-1mm
pos. 55, Gap in Bar

comparison and all are positions 5 or 55 as marked.

On 17a (pos. 5/55), 16a-1mm (pos. 55) and 16a (pos. 55) the distance between the bars is the same, but changes on 16a position 5, becoming narrower.

The distance between CANAL and ZONE is the same on 17a and 16a-1mm and becomes narrower on 16a positions 5/ 55. For all practical purposes, from 17a to 16a-1mm, the "2" from 2 cts. was replaced with a new "1" and the "s" from cts. was also removed. This font of numeral "1" (short upper serif) was different from the one used previously in the first printing of Scott's #16 and later in the Third Printing on #16b. Everything else was left the same.

In the past, I had assumed that the 1ct. stamps were printed prior to the 2 cts. stamps and is most likely true for the first printing, CZ 16 and 17. The printing sequence apparently is: 16 top half of pane, 16 bottom half of pane, 17 bottom half of pane, & 17 top half of pane. BUT, apparently the Canal Zone Postal Service was running low on the 2 cts. stamps which caused them to print the 2 cts. (17a) first. The 2 cts. were used for envelopes (to the USA) and postcards to Europe and the 1 ct. was used primarily for postcards (USA). It is believed that many postcards with two 1 ct. stamps on each were used for Europe. This could be a potentially good source for future copies of the 16a - 1m, which as of this writing, none are known on cover.

(continued on next page)



Fig. 1. CZ Fourth Series, 17a, 16a-1mm, 16a pos. 55/5

From my studies, the following sequence appears to be the one used in the Second Printing (16a and 17a): 17a top half of pane, 17a bottom half of pane, 16a-1mm at least 2 bottom halves of panes, 16a bottom half of pane, 16a top half of pane, and that this sequence continued through the Third Printing (16b and 17b): 16b top half of pane, 16b bottom half of pane, 17b bottom half of pane, and 17b top half of pane. There are obviously other possible scenarios but the one just mentioned is the only scenario I have not been able to disprove.

Other observations and questions:

- Curiously, all known mint samples of 16a-1mm are from the same block of 15. In the past, panes were frequently folded when stored. Therefore, one would end up with left half/right half or top half/bottom half over time after

they split. In this case, where is the rest of this unused half pane or is that all that was left unused?

- Is it possible or probable that there were more than two bottom half panes printed and put into circulation? Is there any evidence to either prove or disprove my assumption that most likely only two bottom panes were printed?

- My copy of 16a-1mm, position 55, has a Cristobal cancel and is dated: Aug. 10, 1906, which is a very early usage of the 16a. Were they all used early? As the 1ct. was used for postcards, and since postcards were collectibles in those days it would probably be reasonable to assume that there are some 16a-1mm stamps associated with postcards in collections and that some of these collections would not be related to Canal

Zone, but topically collected. All should have a Cristobal cancel if our present knowledge is correct.

More analysis on the sequencing of the 2nd and 3rd Printings is in the works. Any and all criticism and/or personal opinions on the subject are welcome and can be directed to the author directly or through the CZP Editor. In addition, alternate theories are very welcome (please include reasoning). Please advise the Editor, should you find any other CZ 16a-1mm material to help further this research. I really need the help of someone who might have insight on how the printing presses of the time period were used: inks, type setting, other processes, etc. I have quite a few intriguing questions that need answers!

ARIPEX Report

The annual CZSG regional meeting was held at ARIPEX in Arizona on Sat. Feb. 21. The show rotates between Phoenix, Mesa, and Tucson and was held this year in Mesa.

Since the 100th anniversary of the Canal Zone Postal Service arrives this year, we discussed the possibility of sending a stamped, cacheted cover to each member honoring the event. This subject was initially broached earlier at a couple of California shows and is moving forward.

Methodologies were proposed for a numbering system regarding the publication (to begin in CZP later this year) of a revised CZSG Check List of stamps, especially those for Scott 31-69, the practical limit of the Specimens discov-

eries out of the American Bank Note Co. archives.

"Organizing a Mail Sale" was a topic as we lead into the consignment period for the 2004 CZSG Mail Sale, to be run by Tom Brougham and Dick Salz.

The Show 'n Tell highlight was a presentation by Bob Reisinger of much of his C1-C5 exhibit, which includes nearly all the known plate block positions as well as very scarce town of origin cancels on those early airmail covers.

Lastly, a minor food fight between two members, the bone of contention being the pronunciation of 'siderographer': is it "sigh"derographer or "sid"derographer?

See you next year in some Arizona city. — Jim Crumacker

Winners:

AMERISTAMPEXPO 2004, Norfolk, Va, Jan. 30-Feb. 1. Gold (single frame) to Clyde & Jay Jennings, *The Two U.S. Half-cent Stamps Overprinted for Use in the Canal Zone*.

COLOPEX 2004, Columbus, OH, Feb. 13-15, 2004. Vermeil to Irwin J. Gibbs, (Literature exhibit) *Postal Stationery of the Canal Zone*.

WESTPEX 2004, San Francisco, CA, May 7-9, 2004. Gold to Gary B. Weiss, *Canal Zone First Series, 1904*. Vermeil to Dickson Preston, *Canal Zone Rates and Uses, 1928-1979*.

Congratulations to all!

Fake Overprints on Canal Zone Stamps

By Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Overprinted U.S. Issues -
1924-1933 Part III -

Fake Flat A Overprints - Used Copies of the Dollar Value

In the two previous articles in this series on the Flat A overprints on Canal Zone stamps, the keys to distinguishing flat A and sharp A overprints were reviewed, and some examples of fake flat A overprints were illustrated and discussed. In the previous article, I indicated that I would treat separately fakes on the \$1 value, assigned Scott No. 81. This article completes that promise.

This writer believes that genuine used copies of Scott No. 81 are quite tough to find, and that used copies of this stamp are the most likely Canal Zone stamp to be "no good," approximating the problems seen on Canal Zone No. 1. It is a hard stamp to find used and genuine, and a used copy is more likely to have a fake overprint than an unused one.

It is not hard to understand why that might be the case. The U.S. stamp, Scott No. 571, has a low catalogue value. "Upgrading" the stamp by adding a Canal Zone overprint increases the catalogue value, if genuine, by 150 fold. This approximate multiple has persisted for many years, ranging from 83 in 1959 to 400 in 1989 and 150 currently, based on values in Scott's Catalogues over those years. [Catalogues from every year were not checked, so these are representative values.] Moreover, if the "upgrade" is unsuccessful, the person faking the overprint is out mere pennies, as a used U.S. 571 has risen in value over 50 cents only fairly recently. The multiple for upgrading an unused U.S. No. 571 to an unused Canal Zone No. 81 has also been significant over the years, is currently 5.6, and has ranged between 3 and 7 over more than four decades. But an unsuccessful attempt to create a Canal Zone No. 81 destroys a U.S. stamp with some value, as U.S. 571 currently has a catalogue value of \$40.

The key here, as is the key with any Canal Zone stamp with a questionable overprint, lies in checking the

measurements of the overprint and examining the quality of the letters in the overprint. Direct comparison with an example known to be genuine can be very helpful, but such an example may not always be available to the collector. However, any good overprint from the first printing in this series can be used. It does not have to be an 81. In some cases, the overprint is sufficiently poor that it fools no one.

First, a summary of the characteristics of the genuine overprint is helpful, as was presented in an earlier article in this series. (CZP 141: 43)



CZ 81 ("good" overprint)

Summary of Characteristics of Flat A Overprint on Scott No. 81

height of letters in overprint: 2.0 - 2.1 mm
length of CANAL overprint: 11.0 - 11.2 mm
length of ZONE overprint: 8.5 mm
spacing between CANAL and ZONE: 9.2 mm
(known varieties 9 1/4 and 9 3/4 mm)

The other characteristic that is worth noting is the color of the underlying stamp. Scott lists two shades for the U.S. stamp, one violet black, the other violet brown. Only the violet brown is listed in Scott as having been overprinted for use in the Canal Zone. However, this writer does not find the color of the underlying stamp to be definitive in spotting fakes, although there are many fakes on stamps with a decided reddish character.

There is no conflict with the possible use of a rotary press stamp here, as no rotary press \$1 value was created for the U.S. Series.

The overprint on genuine copies of 81 is "clean-cut and jet black" (*Canal Zone Stamps*, page 135) and there is no variation as there was only one printing. In fact, only 100 panes were overprinted.

Against these characteristics, we

can check an array of fakes that have been found on the \$1 value. The target appears to be to create a Canal Zone No. 81, but in some cases the distinction as to whether the stamp is a sharp or flat A overprint cannot be determined unambiguously as the overprint is of poor enough quality to be non-definitive.

To illustrate the range of fakes found posing as Scott No. 81, this article starts with the easiest to spot as "no good" because the overprint is the wrong color. The overprint needs to be black; but some copies of U.S. No. 571 can be found with a red overprint, for example the copy shown in Fig. 1.



Fig. 1 Fake with red overprint.

One may think one has miraculously found a previously unknown variety. Not so. Or one may hear an unknowing dealer saying the overprint is o.k. pointing to the Scott catalogue which is unclear in stating that the U.S. Stamps were "Overprinted in Red or Black." Yes, that is true, but only the 1/2-cent variety Canal Zone No. 70 is found with a red overprint in the series with flat A overprints. All others have black overprints, and only black overprints. In addition to the overprint on the example in Fig. 1 being in the wrong color, the word CANAL is a tad too short at 11.0 mm, the letters are fuzzy and poorly formed, and the feet on the A's are nearly non-existent. Additionally there are horizontal lines that appear above the CANAL and below the ZONE that are present on copies of the fake with a red overprint. It is significant to note the absence of a serif at the lower left of the L in CANAL, as this is missing in all examples of this fake seen by this writer, including those for which the overprint is in black ink, not red.

(Continued on next page)



Fig. 2 Fake with overprint having poor quality letters

The fake shown in Fig. 2 has better measurements (11.2 mm CANAL though the 9.0 mm between CANAL and ZONE is too small), but the overprint has a poor appearance. It has thick, heavy letters that run together, the A and L in CANAL generally do touch at the bottom, the lower part of C is not nearly vertical, and there are round feet on the A's.



Fig. 3 Fake overprint in dull greyish black

An additional example is shown in Fig. 3. In this case, the overprint has distinct letters, with the tops of the A's flat, and the C nearly vertical. But the CANAL is only 10.8 mm, the CANAL to ZONE spacing is only 9.0 mm,

the feet of the A's are slightly thick and rounded, and the overprint ink is a dull greyish black. The last point is probably the best clue that it is bad.



Fig. 4 Fake overprint with rounded tops of the A's

The example in Fig. 4 is characterized by letters that do not quite fit a good overprint, as the lower part of C is slightly tilted, there are rounded tops on the A's, and the feet on the A's are thin but slightly rounded. The extension of the foot to the right of the A, in particular, should be flat, distinctive, and not rounded. Like most fakes, the CANAL is too short (10.9 mm) and the CANAL to ZONE spacing too small at 9.0 mm.

The last two examples with fake overprints included in this article are shown in Figs. 5 and 6. Both show a problem with the C in CANAL. As has been described in a previous article in this series, the vertical part of the lower right of the C should be vertical and point at the upper part, with a very small gap between the two. On both of these examples, the gap is too wide. The example in Fig. 5 has the edges of letters sharp, but with some rounding on the serifs and



Fig. 5 Fake overprint with wide gap in C; rounding of A's

on the feet of the A's, and the lower part of the C is tilted with a wide gap. Fig. 6 also has edges of letters sharp, some rounding on the feet of the A's



Fig. 6 Fake overprint with wide gap in C; rounding of feet of A's and N's, and the lower part of C slightly tilted with a wide gap. Both have the CANAL too short at 10.8 mm and the CANAL to ZONE spacing too small at 9.0 mm.

This is not an exhaustive representation of fakes on used Canal Zone 81, but rather presents examples drawn from the collection of Dick Salz, this writer, and the reference collection of the American Philatelic Society.

WESTPEX 2004 Meeting

The 35th consecutive annual meeting of CZSG members at WESTPEX was held in the San Francisco area on May 8.

This one was different in that the meeting was at a new location, the Marriott Hotel one mile south of San Francisco International Airport, to which the WESTPEX show has relocated. 18 members and friends were present, including Jim Kloetzel of Scott's, who was soliciting help for the next *Scott's Specialized Catalogue*

which is going to all-color illustrations and for which scans of some Canal Zone material is presently lacking.

The possibility of a book or catalog of CZ revenue stamps was discussed; Joe Ross would be the author. Also, Irwin Gibbs expects to publish full results of his study of Scott U9, the last meaningful article on this subject dates from the early 1930s.

Tom Brougham discussed his handling of the 2004 CZSG Mail Sale and the computer software he has pur-

chased to make the job easier.

Dick Bates has agreed to be our representative at the Washington, DC International Show in 2006.

Show 'n Tell naturally concluded the meeting. Highlights included an exposition on Bliss covers, an early airmail flight, archival items underlying the Panama "SPECIMENS" issues, and interesting postal rate usages. See you next year at the same place.

Jim Crumacker

Plating Broken Letters in Overprinted Official Air Mail Stamps

by Paul F. Ammons

The CZP contains no articles on, or illustrations of, broken letters in the overprinted Official airmail stamps. Although no illustrations are provided, *Canal Zone Stamps* contains the following information with respect to broken letters for CO1-7, & CO14:

- O of OFFICIAL, position 31, 1947 through at least 1950 printings
- 2nd F of OFFICIAL, position unknown
- A of OFFICIAL, position unknown
- L of OFFICIAL, position unknown
- N of PANAMA, position 16 (double diagonal stroke), 1946 printing
- N of PANAMA, position 34 (right vertical stroke missing), 1946 printing
- MA of PANAMA, position 49, late 1940s printings
- N of CANAL, position 33 (top right missing), 1946 printing
- L of CANAL, position unknown

Based on a review of singles and early covers, the following consistent broken letter from the 1st (3/27/1941) requisition of official airmail stamps is noted:

- O (nick at top right) of OFFICIAL, unknown position on right side of pane [several singles and CO3 cover postmarked 2/3/1942 from Balboa Heights with printed Special Engineering Division, Diablo Heights C/C]

Based on a review of stamps, multiples, and covers, and review of a intact CTO O3 "Steam Shovel" pane with O/N alignment variety in third row believed to be from one of the 1942-1944 requisitions, the following consistent broken letter varieties are noted from the 3rd (3/16/42) through 8th (11/3/1944) requisitions:

- 1st I (horizontal break from right near top) of OFFICIAL, position 16 [several singles, pane, and CO2 MOB cover to Costa Rica postmarked 5/4/1943 with printed Executive Department, Division of Civil Affairs, Balboa C/C]
- N (base of right vertical stroke just above where joined by diagonal stroke) of CANAL, [several singles, multiples, and CO3 cover postmarked 3/17/1943 from Balboa with hand-

stamped Special Engineering Division, Diablo Heights C/C]

- L (tip of horizontal stroke) in CANAL, position 50 [several singles, pane, plus cover with CO6 postmarked 12/12/1942 from Balboa Heights with printed Department of Commerce, Civil Aeronautics Administration, Balboa Heights C/C]

Based on a review of eleven intact CO1-7 & 14 panes (5¢ CTO, 5¢ unused, two 6¢ unused, 10¢ unused, 15¢ unused, two 20¢ unused (one each shade), 30¢ unused, 40¢ unused, and \$1 unused), each with alignment varieties O in OFFICIAL over 2nd A in PANAMA in position 45 and 1st F in OFFICIAL over 2nd A in PANAMA in position 50 and, therefore, believed to have been printed between 1947 and 1950, the following consistent broken letters are noted:

- O (varies from notch at top to complete break) of OFFICIAL, position 31 (not found on \$1 pane, but have single \$1 stamps with this broken letter variety)
- 1st F (tip of top horizontal bar) of OFFICIAL, position 5 (only found on 5¢ unused, 15¢, one of two 20¢, 30¢, and 40¢ panes)
- 2nd F (tip of top horizontal bar) of OFFICIAL and L (tip of horizontal bar) in CANAL, position 19 (not found on one of two 6¢, 10¢, one of two 20¢, 30¢ or 40¢ panes)
- 2nd F (tip of both horizontal bars) and C (varies from notch at top to complete break) in OFFICIAL, position 34
- C (varies from notch to complete break at top center) in OFFICIAL, position 10 (not found on either 6¢, 10¢, one of two 20¢, or \$1 panes, but have single 6¢ and \$1 stamps with this broken letter variety) [CO1 cover postmarked 9/29/1948 from Ancon with printed United States District Court, District of the Canal Zone, Office of the Clerk of the Court and typewritten Ancon, C. Z. C/C]
- L (top half of / curl in vertical stroke) in OFFICIAL, position 13 (not found on 10¢ pane)
- N (double diagonal stroke) in PANAMA, position 16 (only found on 5¢ CTO and one of two 20¢ panes)
- MA in PANAMA, position 49 (only found on 5¢ CTO and one of two 20¢ panes).

- N (varies from break in middle of right vertical stroke to top half of vertical stroke completely missing) in CANAL, position 33

- L (top half of vertical stroke) in CANAL, position 13 (not found on 10¢ pane)

- L (tip of horizontal bar) in CANAL, position 19 (only found on one of two 6¢, 10¢, 30¢, and \$1 panes). This may be from an early stage printing of the plate which has the broken 2nd F in OFFICIAL and L in CANAL noted above.

An imperforate plate proof single exists with broken 2nd F (both bars) and C (notch at top) in OFFICIAL. If this is from position 34, a proof sheet containing many of the broken letters described above has been broken up and is not one of the five intact proof sheets in the sale of the Gilbert N. Plass collection by Ivy, Shreve & Mader Auction Galleries.

Based on a review of numerous single stamps, multiples, and covers, the following consistent broken letter varieties are not believed to be found on the 1942-1948 requisitions:

- 1st I (diagonal break at top right) of OFFICIAL (based on 5 singles: two 10¢, 15¢, and two 40¢), unknown position on right side of pane, unknown requisition
- N (base of right vertical stroke just above diagonal) of PANAMA, possibly from position 34 of different panes (based on 40¢ and \$1 blocks having broken N in CANAL believed to be from position 33; and 2 singles: 15¢ and 20¢)
- C (notch at top) of CANAL (based on 3 singles: 10¢, 15¢, and 30¢), unknown position, unknown requisition
- N (base of right vertical stroke just above diagonal) in CANAL (based on 13 singles: three 5¢, 10¢, three 15¢, 20¢, 30¢, three 40¢, and \$1) unknown position, unknown requisition
- 2nd A (right diagonal just above horizontal bar) in CANAL (based on 3 singles: 10¢, 20¢, and 30¢) unknown position, unknown requisition
- L (top half of vertical stroke) from unknown position on right side of pane from 12th (11/15/1948) requisition, first to include 6¢ value [CO14 cover postmarked 10/27/1950 from Balboa Heights with printed The

(Continued on next page)

Panama Canal C/C and typewriter overstrike Office of the Governor] Note: this is a different position from that noted previously from the position 13 variety from the 1947-1950 requisitions noted above.

The 5¢ CTO and one of two 20¢ unused (light shade) panes present an interesting problem with respect to attributing them to a specific, or even the same, printing. They are the only panes reviewed to have the broken MA in PANAMA in position 49 attributed to late 1940s printings. They have two of the three broken letter varieties attributed to the 1946 printing: N in PANAMA from position 16 and N in CANAL from position 33. Neither pane has the broken N in PANAMA attributed to position 34 of the 1946 printing. They contain a different broken letter variety at this

position: 2nd F and C in OFFICIAL. These two panes contain the O/A (position 45) and F/A (position 50) alignment varieties and the broken O in OFFICIAL (position 31) attributed to the 2nd 1947 and later printings. They additionally have the broken L in OFFICIAL (position 13). Further clouding the picture, the 20¢ pane does not have the broken C in OFFICIAL found in position 10 or the broken 2nd F in OFFICIAL and L in CANAL found in position 19 of the 5¢ pane.

The \$1 unused pane also presents a problem with respect to determination as to when it was printed. It does not contain four of the broken letter varieties now attributed to one or more of the 1947-1950 printings: O in OFFICIAL (position 31), 1st F in OFFICIAL (position 5), 2nd F in OFFICIAL and L in CANAL (position 19),

2nd F and C in OFFICIAL (position 34).

Based on this initial review, there may have been at least three different overprint plates used between 1947 and 1950 that contained the F/A and O/A alignment varieties in positions 45 and 50. Unfortunately, a chart devised to summarize my findings is not suitable for this article.

Different interpretations of the information provided above are welcome. There are undoubtedly other consistent broken letter varieties in the overprinted official airmails.

I would be pleased to receive any information on covers or intact panes or large multiples with some of these additional broken letter varieties. Anonymity, if requested, will be maintained. Please write me at P. O. Box 1311, College Station, TX 77841-1311.

Vasco Nunez de Balboa on CZ Postal Cards by Irwin Gibbs

The Vasco Nunez de Balboa postal cards overprinted CANAL ZONE are sometimes hard to identify. The cards are Republic of Panama postal cards, lithographed by the Hamilton Bank Note Company, New York, and overprinted CANAL ZONE (7 types) in black. There are six distinguishable types reading down and one type reading up. These were overprinted at the office of the Isthmian Canal Commission at Panama City until



May 1909, and thereafter at Mount Hope, C.Z. Cards were overprinted individually on ten separate occasions using a single type form, and producing at least seven distinguishable and readily identifiable types of overprints. These differed in the direction of the overprint or in the length of, or spacing between the two words, or in the style of font used (antique or roman). Hopefully the chart below will make the identification process a little easier.

References: Irwin Gibbs

The Postal Stationery of the Canal Zone, 2003

Type	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
UPSS No.	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9
Scott No.	UX 2	UX 2d	UX 2	UX 3	UX 2	UX 2c	UX2
Number Issued	165,000	30,000	50,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Font	Antique Serifs on A's & N's	Antique Serifs on A's & N's	Antique Serifs on A's & N's	Roman, small	Roman	Antique, No Serifs on A's & N's	Antique, No Serifs on A's & N's
Canal Zone reads	Down	Down	Down	Up	Down	Down	Down
ZONE without Period	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	With Period	Yes
Space between Canal & Zone	7 mm	7 3/4 mm	8 mm	9 1/2 mm	8 1/4 mm	8 mm	6 mm
Length "CANAL"	13 mm	15 mm	12 3/4 mm	10 1/2 mm	13 mm	13 mm	13 mm
Length "ZONE"	10 mm	11 mm	10 mm	8 mm	10 mm	10 mm	10 mm
Earliest Reported	Feb. 29, 1908	Sept. 14, 1908	May 1, 1909	Nov. 10, 1911	May 10, 1911	Dec. 20, 1911	Sept. 19, 1912
Common Characteristics	S3c Broken "O"			S6b Broken "Z"			S9a Dropped "o"

Gilbert Plass 1920-2004

continued from page 9

also Visiting Associate Professor both at Northwestern University, Chicago, IL in 1949 and at Michigan State University 1954-1955. Dr. Plass was the author of six books, including *Infrared Physics and Engineering* (1963), the author of 125 scientific articles, and Consulting Editor of *Infrared Physics* for many years.

Gil and his wife Thyra both loved classical music. Thyra had bachelor's and master's degrees in music criticism and a doctorate in organ performance. After they moved to Bryan/College Station, Texas, they involved themselves in supporting and enlarging the local arts. Gil produced a weekly radio show 1978-1998 titled "Collector's Choice", of classical music based on his own large record collection, along with his commentary, for Texas A&M's PBS station KAMU-5M, and was president of the A&M Opera and Performing Arts Society. Thyra was organist and music director at their local church for 18 years, and music critic for the local newspaper *The Eagle* for 28 years. They both helped to found the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra, the Arts Coun-

cil of the Brazos Valley, the local Children's Symphony, and the local Community Chamber Concerts. In 1991, they established the Gilbert and Thyra Plass Arts Foundation to support the understanding and performance of classical music.

Gil collected many things, among which were: records - some said he had the finest collection of classical music in the southern U.S.; coins; British Commonwealth stamps; and stamps of the U.S. Possessions, including probably the finest collection ever formed of Canal Zone stamps. He began collecting stamps at age 12, and one sometimes sees philatelic covers of the 1930s addressed to him and presumably prepared by him. Gil apparently exhibited only rarely; at least once at Interphil in Philadelphia in 1976 where he exhibited part of his C.Z. collection, under the pseudonym of Norman Sunier, and won a large gold medal. This was the first time a C.Z. exhibit had ever won a large gold medal at an international philatelic exhibit (Dr. James B. Helme also won a large gold medal for his C.Z. exhibit at the same show). Gil was one of the organizers of the resurrection of the CZSG in 1968, after it had been

dormant for 13 years (since 1955). He was editor of *The Canal Zone Philatelist* for 20 years, 1968-1987 and lead author of the CZSG's 1986 book: *Canal Zone Stamps*. In 1978 he founded the United States Possessions Philatelic Society (USPPS) and was editor of its journal *Possessions* for 14½ years, 1978-1992. Gil sold the vast majority of his U.S. Possessions collection at auction through Ivy, Shreve & Mader on July 10, 1993, in New York, N.Y. His philatelic legacy consists of the CZSG, USPPS, *Canal Zone Stamps*, his many philatelic articles, and "ex-Plass" which will remain attached to many of the items he once owned.

Gil Plass was a true gentleman, gentle in demeanor and actions, polite, generous, soft-spoken, thoughtful, and cooperative. Gil was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 1996 and entered a care facility in 2000. His son Gordon Marc Plass died in 1994, and his wife Thyra died in October 2003. Gil is survived by a daughter Lucie Susan Kerwood, six grandchildren, one step grandchild, and three step great granddaughters. We offer our sincerest condolences to them.

G. Brewster and R. H. Salz

Vice President's Report

continued from page 9

going through your holdings and reporting back to the investigator! It would be a tremendous help! Many of the most desired and/or most collected issues of the Canal Zone were issued up to 100 years ago, and are still being investigated and updated. I would like to see the "Old Days" brought back to the CZSG. If you go back in the CZP and read some of the older issues, you will note a great comradely of those asking for information, those assisting by looking through their holdings and communicating with the person asking, etc. Whatever an investigator/researcher asked for through the CZP, was responded to by a good number of members (and they were not using computers!) and the understanding of the particular issue was improved. This is known as "ADDING TO THE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE" and is a result of pure clean research with no particu-

lar preconceived result in mind.

By the time you get this, the deadline for submitting items for the 2004 CZSG Mail Sale may have past. The closing date for submission of material is June 28, 2004. At the time this is being written (mid May), a lot of good material has already been received. Among the 'mentionables' are: 1) A large die proof of the central vignette of #58 (50 cent) on India, die sunk on original card, signed by the engraver, with Philatelic Foundation certificate, 2) a large die proof of the central vignette of #50 (15 cent) on card, with printed information and American Bank Note Company inscription at bottom, 3) #80 and #81 on separate philatelic covers, and 4) over a dozen early registry covers. The catalogue is scheduled to be mailed about August 12th and the sale will close on Sept 26, 2004.

Now, to those of faint heart, those who have not dared to take a chance, and those of modest means such as

myself, you will be able to find very nice material for your collections in the yearly Mail Sale! Not everything in the Sale is over \$200.00. What the sale does have is Quality material at all price levels. So join in this year, and see how you do. I won't miss it for the world!

In a final note, it never ceases to amaze me just how much the technology of this modern age has affected our lives and facilitated so many things, some very simple. For instance, the CZSG President is in Norway, Vice President in Oregon, Secretary in Illinois, Treasurer in Maryland, 2 directors in Texas, one director in Washington, D.C. and the CZP Editor in California. And it works! And then there is Ebay which doesn't hold a stick to the Annual CZSG Mail Sale but occasionally one can find a rarity lost in a lot or pick up some inexpensive items to fill in spots in the collection. And it is a lot of fun!

Panama Canal Zone Exhibit in Japan, By Takahiro Ohta

"Panama Canal Zone Stamp Exhibit 2004" was held March 19-24 at the Philatelic Museum, Tokyo. The exhibit was put together to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Canal Zone Postal Service and issuance of its first stamps. The exhibit was put together by two Japanese Canal Zone stamp collectors: T. Ohta and Prof. I. Uoki.

There were 40 frames of material displayed in the exhibit. The display started with the introduction of the Panama Canal in order to draw the visitor's attention. Shown were maps brochures, photo's, picture postcards and books on the Panama Canal - designed to interest the expected non stamp collectors. Next in the display was a one frame "Panama Canal Story" using many related stamps illustrating from the beginning of the discovery of the New World by Columbus to the return of the Canal to the Republic of Panama.

Total frames of stamp exhibits were 35 (16 pages per frame). The main stamp display was Canal Zone stamps, which included all CZ stamps except #15 and #08. There was displayed one of each in order of Scott's catalogue number. The display had additional explanatory pages about the stamp designs, the backgrounds of the stamps and their issuance quantities, etc. The exhibit tried to inform the visitor the reasons for overprinted stamps and the story of U.S. President Roosevelt's participation in the 25th Anniversary Commemorative stamp designs.

The most interesting display to visi-



tors was "Letters/Cards from Canal Zone to Japan and its reverse". The oldest card shown was a double folded picture postcard franking 2c (CZ #23) postmarked Ancon, Jul 12, 1909 and with receiving postmark: Aki • Hiroshima and Aki • Edajima, Aug 16, 1906.

Other frames illustrated the following: Post Offices in the Canal Zone, CZ Second Series, CZ Third Series, CZ Fifth Series, CZ Overprinted on U. S. 1922 Series, CZ Overprinted U.S. 2c Stamps, CZ Overprinted on U. S. Presidential Fractionals, CZ BOB Stamps, CZ Precancels, Paquebot Markings, Panama Railroad, CZ Stamped Envelopes and CZ Postal Cards.

Another frame introduced Akira Aoyama, who was the only Japanese civil engineer working at the con-

struction sites of the Panama Canal. He started from Yokohama to Washington, DC just after his graduation from Civil Engineering Department, University of Tokyo, and then to the Zone. He was engaged in construction of the Canal for seven years from 1904 to 1911. He started as a pollman and finally promoted to draftsman, working at the Gatun Locks. He was given a gold medal by President T. Roosevelt.

We had two cold rainy and windy days during the exhibition, but had 350 visitors for five days. I truly enjoyed this exhibition.

Editor's note. Our applause goes out to collectors Mr. Ohta and Uoki, for extending the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Canal Zone Postal Service to Japan with a wonderful Exhibit.

SANDICAL 2004 / CZSG

A CZSG meeting was held in San Diego, CA in conjunction with the annual SANDICAL meeting. To our surprise, SANDICAL's theme was the 1904-2004 centenary of the Canal Zone, and in compliment to the American Air Mail Society, the 75th Anniversary of the first commercial flights of FAM-5 between Miami and Cristobal. Show cachets and Tee shirts record the event.

Eight members and a prospect attended: George Cosentini (APO-

FPO), Jim Cross (Editor of COPACARTA), Alan Feguson, Alan Harris, David J. Leeds (Chair), Jim Noll (Money Order Forms), Gary Schneyer (new member), Ronald V. Trefry, and Larry Weinstock (Dealer). Harris' "Ecuador Air Mail 1927-1943" was awarded a Silver Medal. It had strong content of the flights between Canal Zone/Panama and Ecuador.

Discussion centered about Jim Cross' handbook of *Panama Postal Markings* and a proposed cachet to be issued by the CZSG in commemora-

tion of the Centennial of the Canal Zone Postal Service 1904-2004, with the covers to be cancelled at the Panama City, Army Post Office (APO).

David J Leeds

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Can a Member please provide me
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